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Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the sixty-fourth session

Observer status for the Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Organization in the General Assembly

Letter dated 15 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, on behalf of the Government of Honduras, to request in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda for the sixty-fourth session of an item entitled: "Observer status for the Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Organization in the General Assembly".

The Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Organization (IREO) is an intergovernmental organization whose objective is the enhancement of international cooperation through the transfer of sustainable green technology, especially in the fields of sustainable development through the use of renewable energies. Its main goal is to focus, promote and deliver sustainable renewable energy programmes to contribute to the global battle against the environmental challenges posed by the development of human civilization through the implementation of pilot projects designed to educate, promote and expand the use of renewable energies around the globe.

An explanatory memorandum (annex I) in support of the above request and a draft resolution (annex II) are attached to the present letter pursuant to rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

I also have the honour to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Jorge Arturo **Reina Idiaquez**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations

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Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

I. Historical background

1. The Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Organization was founded to implement paragraph 56 (i) of the 2005 World Summit Outcome document (General Assembly resolution 60/1): "To accelerate the development and dissemination of affordable and cleaner energy efficiency and energy conservation technologies, as well as the transfer of such technologies, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, bearing in mind that access to energy facilitates the eradication of poverty", and paragraph 1 (d) of resolution 60/205 on science and technology for development, "Promote and support greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy, such as solar, wind and geothermal energy".

2. IREO is also working with the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, and other partners, to host a conference on the importance of biofuels, ethanol and renewable energy, to be held in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, from 7 to 9 October 2009.

3. In June 2009, IREO and the Permanent Mission of Honduras to the United Nations hosted the first Conference on Renewable Energy. This event brought together the participation of the three main stakeholders: government, the private sector and civil society, as well as academia, to discuss the challenges and potential of different renewable energy technologies. This event was followed by the second annual Renewable Energy Awards in which IREO recognized individuals and organizations for their contributions to promote and advance renewable energy.

4. Building on these successes, IREO is in the process of working with the Mayor of Sao Bernardo do Campo, Brazil, to bring a waste-to-energy facility to Brazil that will help to alleviate the issue of municipal solid waste and provide a source of clean energy to residents in the city.

II. Purpose

5. IREO aims to contribute solutions to environmental degradation through the implementation of pilot projects designed to educate, promote and expand the use of clean, renewable energies around the globe.

6. IREO's vision is to build long-term partnerships with communities, government, the United Nations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, academia and think tanks in order to bring sustainability to communities while creating a better and cleaner world.

III. Organizational structure

7. IREO is a partnership of governments, civil society, private sector corporations, foundations and individual members.

8. The organizational structure of IREO is: (a) General Council; (b) General Secretariat; (c) specialized technical commissions; (d) the Permanent Advisory Commission; and (e) Missions.

9. Each body shall have its own budget to fulfil its obligations and shall be responsible for such budget administration.

10. The IREO General Council shall be composed of heads of State and Government or their duly accredited representatives. It shall meet once a year to deliberate on the issues on the agenda. The General Council shall be chaired by a Chair and Vice-Chair elected every three years.

11. The IREO General Secretariat shall be composed of a Secretary-General, appointed every five years, who may be re-elected, and of staff members, officials and advisers appointed by the Secretary-General. The General Secretariat is responsible for the administration of the IREO International and IREO National and its functions.

12. The specialized technical commissions may be established to assist the General Secretariat. Each commission shall prepare projects and programmes and ensure their follow-up.

13. The Permanent Advisory Commission shall be composed of independent individual advisers with backgrounds in economics, tax, law and accounting.

14. The Missions shall be composed of members of the local government and members appointed by the Secretary-General. The Missions may receive assistance from local communities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector with different social and professional backgrounds.

IV. Financing

15. The IREO is supported by the generous donations of individuals and organizations that believe in the IREO mission of promoting renewable energy for a sustainable future. These partners support the increasing operational budget of IREO as its activities widen their scope. Total pledges and contributions to IREO until the end of 2010 amount to approximately US$ 3 million.

V. Activities

16. IREO strongly believes in the power of communication to help to promote renewable energy. Because of this, IREO has worked to bring together leaders in renewable energy to build partnerships and collaborate to devise solutions for the future. These events include the first Conference on Renewable Energy, a daylong meeting that included world-renowned experts in renewable energy. IREO also uses the annual Renewable Energy Awards to recognize the accomplishments of different sectors in promoting renewable energy and to increase awareness of the activities of individuals and organizations around the world.

17. IREO also successfully implemented the first renewable energy project in Fortaleza, Brazil. The project educated the people of Fortaleza to recycle their fried oil into bar soap for both personal use and for a secondary income. Currently, IREO is creating a partnership to expand the project to build a biodiesel refinery in

Fortaleza. The project will benefit nine communities in the city, reaching an estimated 3,000 people.

18. Currently, IREO is working with Brazilian inventors who have produced ethanol technology for the production of biodiesel. This technology will help developing nations such as Haiti and the Dominican Republic to produce biodiesel and other sources of renewable energies through the production of ethanol.

VI. Relations with other organizations

19. IREO continues to strengthen its relationships in the United Nations as a means to improve global access to renewable energy technologies, especially in the developing world. These partnerships include the United Nations Office for Partnerships, the Financing for Development Office, the Office of Rural Development, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs NGO Sections.

VII. Reasons for seeking observer status for the Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Organization

20. The mandate of IREO explicitly states that it was established to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the General Assembly in 2000. The work of IREO is directly related to Millennium Development Goal 7, which addresses issues of environmental sustainability, and to Millennium Development Goal 8, which addresses creating a global partnership, based upon the following:

(a) The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (Agenda 21)

This Declaration was the result of the effort of 178 countries that met in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992, convened to address urgent problems of environmental protection and social and economic development. There, the assembled leaders signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, endorsing the Rio Declaration and the Forest Principles, and adopted Agenda 21.

(b) World Summit on Sustainable Development: Johannesburg Plan of Implementation

Assembled at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2002, representatives of the world reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable development and endorsed a Declaration and Plan of Implementation.

(c) United Nations Millennium Declaration

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Empowerment of alternative fuel or renewable energy projects promotes the United Nations Millennium Development Goals in favour of populations in need,

especially in those developing countries that have expressed their will to set up national scale pilot projects for sustainable renewable energy projects for the development of humanitarian purposes. Those nations are convinced of the necessity of preventing further widening of the gap between the developed and developing nations by integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; and aim at reversing the loss of environmental resources.

(d) 2005 World Summit Outcome

General Assembly resolution 60/1, paragraph 60 (c) and (d) — "Primary drivers of national capacity-building for development"; "promoting and supporting greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy".

(e) Kyoto Protocol

This well-known Protocol has yet to be a decisive tool in the fight against climate change. Developed countries are not acting on their promises of reduction of carbon emissions and assistance to poor countries. The Kyoto Protocol is an agreement under which industrialized countries will reduce their collective emission of greenhouse gases by 5.2 per cent compared to the year 1990 (but note that, compared to the emissions levels that would be expected by 2010 without the Protocol, this limitation represents a 29 per cent cut). The goal is to lower overall emissions of six greenhouse gases -- carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, sulfur hexafluoride, hydrofluorocarbons and perfluorocarbons — averaged over the period 2008-2012. www.unfccc.int/cop3/fccc/info/indust htm.

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Annex II

Draft resolution

Observer status for the Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Organization in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Organization,

1. *Decides* to invite the Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Organization to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.